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THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vol. 11, No. 10

DECEMBER, 1942

St. Louis, Mo.

SAFETY MEETING SETS EXAMPLE IN SELF-CRITICISM

We are grateful to a certain system for sending us the minutes of a safety meeting it held recently. Our gratitude comes because the minutes contained so much self-criticism. Ordinarily it is far less embarrassing, and certainly not difficult, just to "forget" to send such minutes in. But this system didn't.

Here are excerpts from the minutes:

1. One lineman's hot sticks should be sanded, scraped, and varnished. The old handle on the hot line clamp should be discarded because it is an unvarnished pitchfork handle. A new regulation handle should be used.

2. Another lineman should have a new hot stick. The one now used has a home-made hook attached to an unvarnished pitchfork handle.

3. Another lineman should have a new hot stick and a new hot line clamp. He has neither now.

4. Another lineman should scrape and varnish his hot line clamp stick. He also needs a new cut-out stick. The one he is using now has a home-made hook attached to an unvarnished two-foot section of broom handle.

The manager will order new hot sticks at once.

It is difficult to understand why home-made equipment

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OUR GIFT TO UNCLE SAM



TRIMMING OF TREES MUST BE DONE SAFELY

When advising co-op members on tree trimming, be sure you emphasize the point that it is necessary that they consult the co-op office. Line clearing requires specialized training, if accidents to the tree trimmer and to the lines are to be avoided.

Several co-ops recently asked their members, in their newsletters, to trim or remove small trees growing under the REA lines.

Such requests can lead to mishaps that will far outweigh the advantages from having the trees trimmed. The members must have your guidance. They must be helped to avoid accidents.

A better suggestion is contained in the newsletter, from Iowa 15 Harrison. "When the lights go out," says the newsletter, "say to yourself: 'I wonder whose trees caused that outage. Are they mine?' Help yourself by letting us cut

(Turn to TRIMMING page 2)

Published Monthly in the Interest of Safety
for Employees of REA Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

THIS LETTER TELLS A STORY

Oct. 29, 1942

Mr. Elvis Hunt
Ash Grove, Mo.

Dear Mr. Hunt:

We certainly appreciate the manner in which you took care of the fallen tree which broke the neutral wire and rested upon the phase wire of our line close to your home.

Our maintenance man reported to us that you stood guard over the wire which had fallen across the road warning all people not to cross this wire either by car, wagon and team, or on foot until our maintenance crew arrived to make repairs.

You did the noble deed for all concerned as our lines carry a high voltage, and are extremely dangerous when broken.

Again thanking you for your extreme cooperation in this matter, we remain

Very truly yours,
OZARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
S. E. Robers, Manager

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TREE TRIMMING (Cont'd.)

those trees which are causing outages."

Michigan 20 Delta, in its newsletter, makes the same suggestion: "We received a phone call that a tree had fallen and broken the line. It lay across the road. (The caller) said that he did not think it safe for him to attempt to remove the tree. We feel that this precaution....is commendable. Always be on the safe side wherever you see a condition such as this. If you happen to see a tree leaning into the line or against the wires, do not attempt to chop the tree down. You may lose your life.. call the co-op office and let the men who know how to do the job remove the tree."

IT'S MANAGEMENT'S JOB

There has been a great deal of discussion lately on the point that safety must be taught as "part of the job," rather than "in addition to" the job. We in the REA are in thorough agreement with that.

When tying a tool on a handline, a groundman must learn that he must tie it so that it can be easily removed, yet so securely that it will not fall off. Similarly, a lineman, in removing a jumper, must learn that it must be fastened securely, removed completely, or so bent that it will be impossible for it to swing, or be accidentally knocked, into a phase wire.

A foreman must learn that the only correct way to do a job is the safe way. And not once in a while, but each time.

Safety is a part of every job that is to be performed every time. Safety programs, if they are to be successful, cannot be side issues. It is the responsibility of management to see that they are not.

Management can arrange periodic safety meetings, put up posters, warn "be careful, boys," even delegate full responsibility for carrying out the requirements for safety to a subforeman. But it cannot then consider that it has done everything necessary. Safety is part of the management job, as well as that of the workers. If a manager sees a worker perform a job unsafely, or knows the worker has performed a job unsafely, and does not call the worker's attention to it, he is not doing his job.

Safety men often hear managers say: "How am I going to get a worker to obey safe practices when I am not with him?" The answer is obvious. Management can induce workers to observe safe practices in the same manner it induces workers to come to work at a specified time, build lines in accordance with set standards, or do all the other things management requires. Management must have a desire to reduce accidents, if it is to get results. Management, not the subforeman, or the "careless worker" is responsible for accidents. It is as much the part of management to see that a job is done safely, as it is the part of the worker's job to do it safely.

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SAFETY MEETING (Cont'd.)

was used when everyone concerned knew it was unsafe. But what is important is that *something is being done about it*. It is quite likely that on practically every system there is something unsafe, something everyone knows is unsafe, and something which all agree will be changed in the near future. But *don't wait! Do it at once!*

At your next safety meeting put in writing the things which you know are unsafe. Then *resolve to change them before the following meeting*. At that time inquire if the change has been made. And keep at it until the change is made.

SAFETY AND JOB TRAINING

Supervisors have been quiet since the conference. But by now they should be fully recovered from their exertions in St. Louis and at the National Safety Congress at Chicago. So then, what about the REA Lineman's Safety Handbook?

Subjects have been assigned. Here they are:

- Iowa - Unloading Poles from Flat Cars.
- Texas - Live Line Maintenance.
- Miss. - Hold-off Procedure.
- Ill. - Tree Trimming.
- Ohio - Transformer Installation and Tree Trimming.
- Minn. - Care and Use of Rubber Protective Equipment.
- Wis. - Wire Stringing.

Now let's get to work on these!

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Ohio is looking for a new supervisor. Qualifications are ten years' line work, five of them in a supervisory capacity. Applicants must also have First Aid certificates. Good salary and expenses.

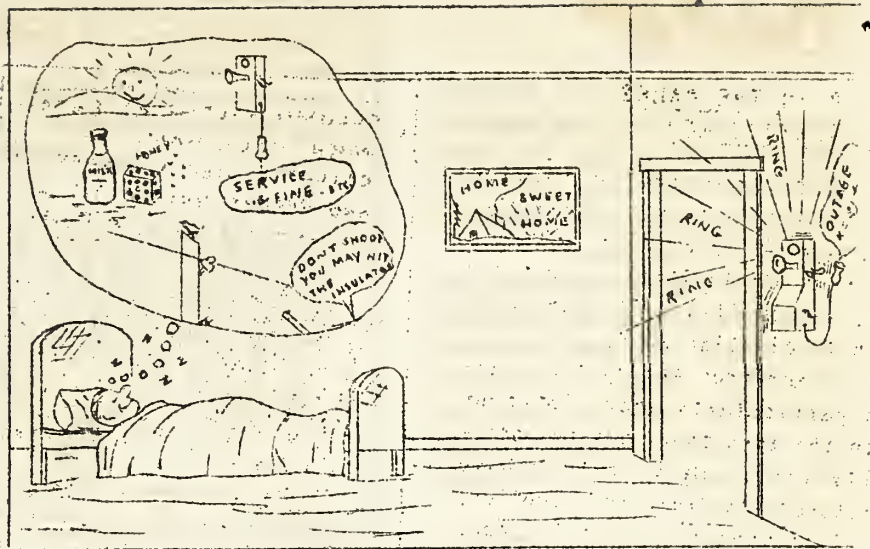
Address applications to: Lewis E. Buehler, Secretary-Treasurer, Ohio Safety and Job Training Supervisory Committee, c/o Tuscarawas-Coshocton Electric Cooperative, Inc., Coshocton, Ohio.

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DISCUSSION (Cont'd.)

superintendent should have been familiar with the activities of his crew.

Although the cutouts were hung without mishap, the men were working too close to energized conductors. Since the victim was BURNED ON THE HAND, use of rubber gloves probably would have saved his life.



A LINEMAN'S DREAM

Once a lineman lay home sleeping,
Through his head a dream came creeping
Of a land of Milk and Honey
Where people thought he earned his money.
He dreamed that one man on his line,
Came in and said "My service is fine."
And of a lady who didn't complain
"Cause her lights went off in the wind and rain."

He dreamed that folks were prompt to call
If they saw the wire break and fall
And were not afraid to wear out shoes
Walking out to check their own main fuse.

He dreamed that during the hunting season
The men and boys would use some reason
And shoot the birds instead of the glass
Thus giving the juice a chance to pass.

And as this dream went through his head
The phone bells jerked him out of bed.
A voice came over the line and said
"Come on out, the whole line's dead."

(Huntington County, Indiana R.E.M.C.)

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NEAR ACCIDENTS (Cont'd.)

and he landed on the ground a few feet away, feeling as though he had been hit on the head with a hammer.

A couple of very small burns, about the size of pin heads, appeared on his hands and feet.

"It certainly could have been worse," commented Mr. Meyer. "Items like these are always good, and I believe that when they are brought out and discussed, are as instructive as an actual and serious accident."

(Send in stories of near accidents you know about. —Ed.)

SEND IN THE NAMES OF SERVICE MEN

Our men in the service welcome mail from home eagerly. They want to be kept in touch with their families, with their former civilian life, and with their civilian work.

Men from REA systems have a particularly sharp interest in the work they have temporarily left. Many of them have watched REA from its inception; all of them have seen it grow; all of them realize its great objectives.

"The Lineman" wants to help to keep those men informed. Send us their names and addresses and we will mail the magazine to them every month. It will be doing a service to the men. It will satisfy one of their wants. And it will be a good thing for your system so keep in touch with them.

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TWO NEAR ACCIDENTS

The story of the two near accidents in a recent issue of "The Lineman," evoked considerable discussion at one of his meetings, L. C. Meyer, Minnesota Supervisor, writes, and also recollections of some close calls experienced by some of the men there.

One man recalled an incident while he and another man were sawing a tree. Inquiring from the foreman whether there was any possibility that the tree in falling might come in contact with the energized conductor, they were assured that it would not, and told to keep on sawing. The tree started to fall, the men kept on sawing, and one branch did hit the wire.

The man telling of the incident said that suddenly both of his feet came up in the air, (Turn to NEAR ACCIDENTS page 4)



THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

Accidents reported in November:

1. Answering an outage call a lineman, of limited experience, found a blown fuse. Following instructions, he sought to de-energize the line before starting to work on it. But the cutout he opened did not control the spur he was to work on. He climbed the transformer pole, evidently getting close enough to the primary to cause an arc. **BURNS ON THE HANDS**, a sprained ankle and possibly cracked vertebrae. He had failed to follow through on the instructions by installing protective grounds.

2. An OCB was being installed on a single-phase line by the line foreman. While reaching for equipment with his left hand, he thrust his right hand into the phase. **DEEP BURNS ON THE HAND** and feet. No time was lost. (Perhaps it was the climate. --Ed.)

3. While driving a ground rod with a fence post driver, a helper cut and bruised his thumb. The driver slipped off the rod when lifted too high and struck the thumb on the down stroke. Several days were lost.

DISCUSSION CASE #11

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The job was to install cutouts on each of two single-phase taps which took off a three-phase line.

As originally built there was only one tap. The three-phase conductors were supported on a cross-arm and ridge-pin. The tap was dead-ended on the pole, and the jumper up to the central conductor was kearneyed. Later a tap was built in the opposite direction, and it was dead-ended on the pole opposite the first tap and clamped to an outer phase conductor.

A lineman climbed the pole and cut the kearneyed jumper from the line. He then moved around the pole, removed the other jumper from the line and began to install a cutout on the line arm.

A second lineman climbed to position for placing a cutout near his end of the crossarm. He had completed hanging the cutout, and the screws were backed out for connection, when somehow the cut jumper flipped into a phase, and made a contact with the first lineman at the same time.

Electric shock had taken another life. **THE BURNS WERE ON A LEG AND THE BACK OF ONE HAND.** Compensation of \$4,500 and \$450 funeral expenses were awarded the dependents. It will not make up for the loss.

The superintendent had intended buck-arm construction in conformance with standard specifications. But the linemen in their zeal to protect main feeders assumed the change could be made later. One cutout could have been installed on a buck-arm (double). It would also have been necessary to install double dead-ends on each tap, as two wire sizes were involved.

Zeal and initiative are splendid qualities, but the lineman should have consulted the superintendent. And the

(Turn to DISCUSSION page 4)